

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 11642

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG OECD
SUBJECT: INTERFUTURES STEERING COMMITTEE

REF: A) STATE 83564, B) HUBBARD/GELBARD TELCON APRIL 18

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTTEL, MISSION APPROACHED
LESOURNE TO REQUEST POSTPONEMENT OF INTERFUTURES STEER-
ING COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 5-6. CANVASS OF
OTHER KEY DELS INDICATED GREAT RELUCTANCE TO CHANGE
DATES FOR MEETING WHICH WERE SET LAST NOVEMBER. SPECIFI-
CALLY, GERMANS AND OTHERS ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND JUNE 6-7
MEETING AND NO OTHER DATES IN JUNE HAVE THUS FAR BEEN
FOUND WHICH WOULD BE BROADLY ACCEPTABLE.

2. SITUATION HAS NOW BEEN COMPLICATED BY CHAIRMANSHP
PROBLEM. JAPANESE HAVE INFORMED US AND SECRETARIAT THAT
SABURO OKITA IS RESIGNING HIS GOJ POSITION TO RUN FOR
DIET IN UPPER HOUSE ELECTION AND WILL STEP DOWN AS STEER-
ING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PRIOR TO UPCOMING MEETING. GOJ
HAS TENTATIVELY DECIDED TO PUT FORWARD CANDIDACY OF
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SENIOR ECONOMIC PLANNING AGENCY OFFICIAL ISAMU MIYAZAKI,
A FREQUENT PARTICIPANT AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF OECD ECONO-
MIC POLICY COMMITTEE, TO REPLACE OKITA AS INTERFUTURES
CHAIRMAN. THUS FAR, THEY HAVE CONSULTED ONLY SECRETA-
RIAT AND US AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE OUR REACTIONS TO
MIYAZAKI CANDIDACY BEFORE RAISING IT WITH OTHER MEMBER
COUNTRIES.

3. SECRETARIAT IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC OVER MIYAZAKI BECAUSE OF HIS LACK OF INVOLVEMENT TO DATE IN INTERFUTURES PROJECT. THEY CONSIDER THE ONLY FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO JAPANESE CHAIRMAN TO BE DICK ROSS, UK CABINET PLANNING OFFICE DEPUTY DIRECTOR WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN INTERFUTURES FROM EARLY PLANNING STAGES AND IS PRESENTLY THE SENIOR VICE CHAIRMAN OF STEERING COMMITTEE. SECRETARIAT BELIEVES ROSS WILL ACTIVELY SEEK CHAIRMANSHIP IF THERE IS NO JAPANESE CANDIDATE, ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT YET BEEN CONSULTED. SECRETARIAT HAS INFORMALLY SUGGESTED TO JAPANESE A FORMULA BY WHICH ROSS WOULD BECOME CHAIRMAN AND MIYAZAKI A VICE CHAIRMAN. INITIAL JAPANESE RESPONSE WAS NEGATIVE, NOT ONLY BECAUSE THEY ARE INTERESTED IN KEEPING CHAIRMANSHIP BUT ALSO BECAUSE THEY DO NOT FEEL ROSS' CONTRIBUTION THUS FAR TO PROJECT HAS BEEN POSITIVE.

4. JAPANESE HAVE INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DIFFICULT FOR MIYAZAKI TO ATTEND A MAY 5-6 MEETING. HE COULD ALSO BE UNAVAILABLE JUNE 6-7. BEST TIME FOR MIYAZAKI ATTENDANCE WOULD BE IN PERIOD BETWEEN CONCLUSION OF JUNE L4-L5 EPC AND JUNE 23-24 OECD MINISTERIAL.

5. MISSION COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION. WE RECOMMEND THAT WE INDICATE IMMEDIATELY OUR SUPPORT FOR MIYAZAKI. FACT THAT JAPANESE PROPOSED PROJECT AND ARE MAKING A DISPROPORTIONATELY HEAVY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION POINTS STRONGLY TO CONTINUED JAPANESE CHAIRMANSHIP. EXPERIENCE
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IN EPC INDICATES THAT MIYAZAKI IS A CAPABLE, IF NOT ESPECIALLY ARTICULATE, OPERATOR IN OECD MILIEU. LIKE THE SECRETARIAT, WE SEE NO ALTERNATIVE TO ROSS AMONG THE CURRENT LINE-UP OF STEERING COMMITTEE REPS AND WE SHARE JAPANESE LACK OF ENTHUSIASM OVER ROSS' PERFORMANCE THUS FAR ON THIS PROJECT.

6. SINCE JAPANESE ARE SEEKING OUR RESPONSE BEFORE PUTTING MIYAZAKI'S CANDIDACY FORWARD FORMALLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. EARLY DECISION ON MIYAZAKI MIGHT ALSO FACILITATE DECISION TO POSTPONE STEERING COMMITTEE.

ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE ON

A) WHETHER WE SUPPORT MIYAZAKI FOR CHAIRMAN, AND

B) WHETHER DATES BETWEEN JUNE 15 AND JUNE 23 WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE FOR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, BEARING IN MIND THAT DELS OTHER THAN JAPANESE HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPROACHED ON THESE DATES AND WE ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT THEY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

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